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PENCE HAILS FUNDING FOR MUNCIE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT AND BALL STATE UNIVER

Washington, Feb 14, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives secured \$1 million for Ball State University's Midwest Entrepreneurial Education Center and \$1 million for the reconstruction of State Road 332 at I-69 in Delaware County.

"The transportation infrastructure and continued viability of Ball State University are absolutely critical to the economic development of Muncie," said Pence. "I am pleased to secure funding for these projects and commend Mayor Dan Canan and the entire community for rallying to support this project. Mayor Canan's support was critical in order to secure this funding."

The Midwest Entrepreneurial Education Center (MEEC) is located within Ball State's College of Business and offers a curriculum focusing on entrepreneurial skills. The program has consistently been ranked as one of the best in the United States. In fact, U.S. News and World Report named it among the top ten entrepreneurial education programs in the nation.

Funding for the project will be used to expand the MEEC, which includes undergraduate and graduate degree programs, training programs for private industry, executive development programs, youth programs and distance education programs.

Increased traffic flow over the years has led to an aggressive redesign that includes widening the existing State Road 332 to four lanes and enhancing the I-69 overpass.

"The \$1 million in funding for State Road 332 will help move this project along tremendously," said Pence.

The funding was included in the FY 2003 Omnibus spending bill that passed the House last night. It now goes to Conference Committee where it faces almost certain passage.

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